



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
Telephone: (626) 458-5100  
www.ladpw.org

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **EP-4**

August 28, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes  
Director of Public Works

### **SEMI-ANNUAL STATUS REPORT ON THE COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Attached is the status report on the County Integrated Waste Management Plan for February through July 2003. The most critical issues are summarized below.

The Year 2001 Annual Report on the Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan Summary Plan and Siting Element Assessments was submitted to the California Integrated Waste Management Board on July 1, 2003. The Report discusses changes in disposal capacity and assesses the County of Los Angeles' ability to meet the disposal needs of all 88 cities in the County and the unincorporated areas for the next 15 years. The Report indicates that the County of Los Angeles would be unable to provide for its disposal needs for the 15-year planning period by relying on in-County disposal capacity alone. However, the Report demonstrates that the County's needs could be met by successfully permitting and developing all in-County landfill expansions, utilizing out-of-County disposal facilities, and developing the new landfill sites identified in the Siting Element. If new in-County landfills cannot be developed, the County's needs could be met by more extensively utilizing out-of-County disposal capacity and, to the extent technically and economically feasible, developing facilities utilizing conversion technologies.

The Waste Board has postponed the due date of the 2002 Annual Report on the Source Reduction and Recycling Element, Household Hazardous Waste Element, and Non-disposal Facility Element due to the unavailability of the taxable sales data from the State Department of Finance. The Waste Board anticipates the data will be available by October 2003. Once the Waste Board notifies Public Works that the data is ready to be used, we would have 30 days to submit the 2002 Annual Report.

Public Works, in concert with Supervisorial District 2, continues to work towards providing enhanced waste collection services in the newly formed Lennox Garbage Disposal District. On July 1, 2003, your Board awarded the contract for the automated and separate collection of refuse, recyclables and green waste for residential, multi-family and commercial/industrial establishments to Browning Ferris Industries, Inc., Waste Systems of North America, Inc. The Garbage Disposal District began providing services on August 1, 2003.

The County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County has obtained all the necessary permits for the continued operation of the Puente Hills Landfill. This includes a Finding of Conformance with the Countywide Siting Element, which was granted by the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force on February 20, 2003, and a Solid Waste Facility Permit, which was issued by the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services on July 11, 2003. Sanitation Districts, in consultation with Public Works, is currently developing a plan for implementing the conditions of the Conditional Use Permit.

BFI continues its efforts to develop the City of Los Angeles portion of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. On April 17, 2003, the Task Force granted a Finding of Conformance for the proposed City portion of the Landfill. Additionally, the Waste Board concurred on the issuance of a Solid Waste Facility Permit on May 13, 2003. However, BFI has yet to obtain a Waste Discharge Requirements Permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Waste Management, Inc., filed an application for a revised SWFP with the City of Los Angeles Local Enforcement Agency for Bradley Landfill. The proposed revision would correct the Landfill's permitted elevation from 1,000 to 1,010 feet above mean sea level. On April 9, 2003, the Waste Board concurred with the issuance of a revised SWFP for the Landfill. However, the project has yet to obtain an FOC required by the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element. On June 19, 2003, the Task Force considered the proposal but did not grant the FOC. The Task Force requested additional information from the project proponent, as well as from various City agencies, in order to determine the project's consistency with the Siting Element.

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The California Air Resources Board is currently accepting comments for a regulation it is developing to reduce emissions of diesel particulate matter from solid waste collection vehicles throughout the State. The regulation would affect diesel-fueled vehicles with 1960 to 2006 model years used for residential or commercial solid waste collection. Public Works and numerous jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles and throughout the State oppose the proposed regulation because it makes local jurisdictions responsible for the haulers' compliance. The Air Resources Board may also impose penalties of up to \$10,000 per day per vehicle on both the vehicle owner and the local jurisdiction in which the noncompliant vehicle operates.

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Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office  
Executive Office  
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

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**CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1989 (AB 939)**

- **Annual Reports for the Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan to the Waste Board**

Year 2001 Annual Report for the Los Angeles County Countywide Summary Plan and Siting Element

The Year 2001 Annual Report on the Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan Summary Plan and Siting Element Assessments was submitted to the California Integrated Waste Management Board on July 1, 2003. The Report discusses changes in disposal capacity and assesses the County of Los Angeles' ability to meet the disposal needs of all 88 cities in the County and the unincorporated areas for the next 15 years.

The Report indicates that while much of the proposed landfill expansion capacity identified in the Siting Element has been successfully permitted, there has been a lack of progress in the permitting of the potential new in-County landfills identified in the Element (i.e., Blind and Elsmere Canyons). Furthermore, development of these new landfills will be difficult at best due to strong public opposition as well as land acquisition issues. Because of these factors, the daily disposal needs of the County through the 15-year planning period would be fully met only with utilization of out-of-County disposal capacity. However, the Report demonstrates that the County's needs could be met by successfully permitting and developing all in-County landfill expansions, utilizing out-of-County disposal facilities, and developing the new landfill sites identified in the Siting Element. If new in-County landfills cannot be developed, the County's needs could be met by more extensively utilizing out-of-County disposal capacity and, to the extent technically and economically feasible, developing facilities utilizing conversion technologies.

This reliance on out-of-County disposal capacity to meet the County of Los Angeles' disposal needs was anticipated in the Siting Element. The Report discusses the progress that has been made to date towards accomplishing these goals as well as the County's current efforts in this area. Therefore, no revision to the Siting Element was deemed necessary.

Year 2002 Annual Report for the Los Angeles County Countywide Summary Plan and Siting Element Assessments

Public Works is currently in the process of collecting information from solid waste facilities within the County and gathering all pertinent data for the

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development of the 2002 Annual Report on the Siting Element and Summary Plan. Public Works is expecting to submit the report to the Waste Board in September 2003 (at the same time as the Year 2002 Unincorporated Areas' Annual Report).

Year 2002 Unincorporated Areas' Annual Report on the Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE), Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE), and Non-disposal Facility Element (NDFE)

The Waste Board has delayed the due date of the 2002 Annual Report on the SRRE, HHWE, and NDFE due to the unavailability of the taxable sales data from the State Department of Finance. These data are needed to complete the "Adjustment Method" diversion calculations for the Report. The Waste Board informed Public Works that they anticipate receiving this data no earlier than late October. Once the Waste Board notifies Public Works when the data is ready to be used, the Annual Report would have to be submitted within 30 days.

- **Waste Board Biennial Reviews of County of Los Angeles Jurisdictions**

The Waste Board has completed its review of County of Los Angeles cities' compliance with the 50 percent waste reduction mandate for the year 2000. As of the end of July 2003, the Waste Board approved 29 cities for meeting the mandate and 10 cities for meeting the mandate based on good faith efforts. The Waste Board has approved time extensions for meeting the mandate to 44 cities and the County and has placed five cities under compliance orders.

- **Disposal Quantity Reporting**

The Solid Waste Disposal Quantity Reports for the fourth quarter of 2002 and first quarter of 2003 were received, compiled, and forwarded by Public Works in April and July 2003, respectively, to over 300 jurisdictions throughout the State which utilized disposal facilities located in the County of Los Angeles.

For the fourth quarter 2002, jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles disposed of approximately 3.19 million tons of solid waste at disposal facilities located in and out of the County of Los Angeles. This tonnage is approximately 60,000 tons more than the quantities disposed in the same period in 2001. For the first quarter of 2003, jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles disposed approximately 3.17 million tons of solid waste at disposal facilities located in and out of the County. The tonnage is

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approximately 189,600 tons more than the total quantity disposed in the first quarter of 2002.

In the fourth quarter of 2002, a total of 581,183 tons of solid waste were exported by jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles to out-of-County landfills for disposal compared to 424,500 tons exported in the fourth quarter of 2002. This includes about 242,700 tons disposed in Orange County, 252,400 tons in Riverside County, and 153,500 tons in Ventura County. In the first quarter of 2003, a total of 560,100 tons of solid waste were exported by jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles to out-of-County landfills for disposal compared to 409,200 tons exported in the first quarter of 2002. This includes about 251,100 tons disposed in Orange County, 237,600 tons in Riverside County, and 41,300 tons in Ventura County.

Additionally, during the fourth quarter of 2002 and the first quarter of 2003, disposal facilities in County of Los Angeles received about 87,000 tons and 100,300 tons of waste from neighboring counties compared to 111,300 tons and 117,600 tons received in the fourth quarter of 2001 and the first quarter of 2002, respectively.

In compliance with the Waste Board's submittal procedures for revisions to the disposal reports, upon receiving the revised disposal reports from the solid waste disposal facilities, Public Works compiled and forwarded the revised DQR for the fourth quarter 2001 and the calendar year 2002 to all affected jurisdictions on May 15, 2003.

In summary, during the 2002 calendar year, jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles disposed approximately 12.6 million tons of solid waste at disposal facilities in and out of the County of Los Angeles. This includes approximately 2 million tons of solid waste exported for disposal at out-of-County facilities. Compared to 2001, the total disposal tonnage has decreased approximately 196,000 tons.

- **Solid Waste Collection System - Options Analysis Report Implementation**

Lennox Garbage Disposal District

Public Works, in concert with Supervisorial District 2, continues to work towards providing enhanced waste collection services in the newly formed Lennox Garbage Disposal District. On July 1, 2003, the Board successfully conducted the required Proposition 218 hearing. Based on the lowest responsible bid price and the operational preferences of the District, on

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July 1, 2003, the Board also awarded the contract for the automated and separate collection of refuse, recyclables, and green waste for residential, multi-family, and commercial/industrial establishments to BFI Waste Systems of North America, Inc.

During the month of July, six community meetings were held in the District. The meetings informed residents and businesses of the services offered under the District contract. Containers and dumpsters were distributed to all District residents and businesses during the last week of July. The District began operation on August 1, 2003.

Model Franchise Agreement

Public Works, in concert with the County Department of Health Services and County Counsel, has continued its efforts, working with the waste-hauling industry working group, to develop a model franchise agreement in selected County unincorporated areas. The five-year notice to waste haulers expired on June 23, 2003. Public Works' goal to have a franchise agreement in place in the first targeted unincorporated area was delayed due to legal questions and key provisions of mutual concern. Public Works concluded its review of the model franchise agreement in April 2003 and forwarded the agreement to County Counsel to approve the final language. To date, County Counsel continues to review the franchise agreement.

County Counsel is also currently finalizing County Code revisions to authorize franchises in the County unincorporated area. Once the County Code revisions have been finalized, they will be submitted to the Board for approval. After Board adoption, Public Works plans to begin conducting community meetings in the areas targeted for implementation as the system is put into operation. Based on community input, each franchise agreement will be finalized and forwarded to the Board for approval.

Public Works and County Counsel will propose changes to the County Code to make it consistent with State and Federal laws and regulations through a separate Board agenda item which is anticipated by fall 2003.

**REGULATIONS, ORDINANCES AND LEGISLATION**

- **Changes to State Disposal Reporting System Regulations - SB 2202**

As required by SB 2202, the Waste Board submitted a Report to the Legislature in early 2002 recommending changes to the State DRS to

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address its deficiencies. The Waste Board then proceeded to develop draft revised regulations incorporating the recommendations in the Report. These draft regulations were available in November 2002 and their requirements include:

- Solid waste disposal facilities to conduct daily waste origin surveys and weigh each load every day except for self-haul loads
- Exempt small rural facilities from daily waste origin survey requirement
- Require scales at disposal facilities that exceed a specified daily tonnage
- Signage at disposal facilities about waste origin collection onsite
- Standards for collecting origin and disposal tonnage information
- Landfill and transfer station operators may send disposal and jurisdiction of origin data to jurisdictions at the same time they send it to the County, and notify affected cities of any change to the reported data at the same time they notify the County
- Increase training requirements with respect to the DRS

The Waste Board has held several workshops to obtain comments on the informal draft regulations. Public Works provided verbal comments at the December 2002 and March 2003 workshops and also submitted written comments on January 2, March 12, and July 18, 2003.

The Waste Board also held two focused workshops on subtopics within the DRS regulations in March 2003 and released the second informal draft regulations for public comment in June 2003. The comment period for the second draft regulations ended July 18, 2003. The Waste Board is proposing new changes to the draft regulations which Public Works believes will adversely impact the County and its administration of the DRS. These changes include:

- A new requirement for agencies, which in the case of Public Works, will require the input of massive amounts of additional data from transfer stations to the DRS System
- A new requirement for agencies, such as Public Works, to track changes to reported information in the DRS

On July 18, 2003, Public Works submitted comments to the Waste Board expressing its opposition to these latest revisions in that they are impractical, excessive, and unnecessarily burdensome to agencies in the amount of information required for an agency to provide to jurisdictions.

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Public Works expressed support for enhanced tracking, recordkeeping, and reporting of solid waste as long as the Waste Board continues its enforcement policy requiring both the implementation of the programs in the SRRE and mathematical compliance with the diversion mandate. In addition, the regulations should be accompanied with strict enforcement measures to ensure waste haulers and facility operators provide accurate and timely waste origin data as well as include requirements for tracking residual solid waste by composting, materials recovery, and construction and demolition debris recycling/processing facilities. It was also emphasized that due to the difficulties in accurately tracking solid waste and the resources necessary to do so, the Waste Board should reconsider placing too much emphasis on disposal numbers and instead focus on diversion program implementation. Public Works will continue to follow the development of the DRS regulations.

- **Rule 1133 - Emissions from Compost-Related Operations**

The purpose of this Rule is to regulate and reduce emissions from composting-related operations. In the process of developing the regulations, the South Coast Air Quality Management District separated the rule into Rules 1133, 1133.1, 1133.2, and 1133.3. The first three were approved on January 10, 2003, as reported in the previous Semi-Annual Report. These address general administrative requirements, chipping and grinding operations, and co-composting operations.

Rule 1133.3 will address emissions from green waste composting. The AQMD is planning to further develop Rule 1133.3 in 2003. This Rule has the potential to negatively impact the composting industry. Because composting is a major component of jurisdictions' plans for achieving the waste diversion mandates of State law, Public Works will closely follow the development of this Rule and provide input to the AQMD.

- **California Air Resources Board Regulation for Solid Waste Collection Vehicles**

The California Air Resources Board is currently accepting comments for a regulation it is developing to reduce emissions of diesel particulate matter from solid waste collection vehicles throughout the State. The regulation would affect diesel-fueled vehicles with 1960 to 2006 model years used for residential or commercial solid waste collection. The owners of these collection vehicles must use best available control technology for their engines, a verified diesel emission control strategy, an alternative-fuel engine, or a heavy-duty pilot ignition engine to meet the State's standard.

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The requirement would be phased-in between December 31, 2004, and December 31, 2010.

Public Works and numerous jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles oppose the proposed regulation because it places enforcement and reporting responsibilities on local jurisdictions. As proposed, the ARB may impose penalties of up to \$10,000 per day per vehicle on both the vehicle owner and the local jurisdiction in which the noncompliant vehicle operates.

Additional reasons for opposing the regulation include:

- Local jurisdictions do not have staff with technical expertise to enforce the regulation; this expertise lies with the ARB.
- Redundant enforcement and reporting by local jurisdictions due to haulers operating in multiple jurisdictions
- Enforcement should more appropriately lie with the ARB (they are their regulations).
- More time is needed for implementation so that jurisdictions can provide for haulers to recover the costs for compliance as their existing solid waste collection contracts are renewed.
- Local jurisdictions were not adequately represented in the working group which helped to develop the regulation.

The ARB was invited and conducted a presentation at the July meeting of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force. The Task Force, along with Public Works, will submit letters of opposition to the regulation to the ARB.

- **Proposed State Construction and Demolition Regulations**

The Waste Board has been developing regulations to address construction and demolition debris (C&D) management in two phases. The Phase I regulations cover the transfer and processing of C&D while Phase II regulations cover the disposal of C&D. These regulations will place facilities and operations into regulator tiers so that the level of oversight is consistent with the potential impact on public health and safety.

Public Works submitted written comments for the Phase I regulations on April 7, 2003, expressing concern that they will have a negative impact on small facility operators and the C&D recycling market. This is due to lowering the maximum tons per day that can be received by the facilities in the various tiers. This places more facilities in the Registration and Full Solid Waste Facilities Permit tier which will increase operating costs.

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Phase I regulations were approved by the Waste Board on April 9, 2003, and by the Office of Administrative Law on July 10. Phase I regulations will be effective August 9, 2003.

For the Phase II regulations, the Waste Board conducted public hearings and began a 15-day comment period on July 9, 2003. The Waste Board intends to revise Phase II and to consider it for another 15-day comment period. It is anticipated the final regulations would be adopted by the Waste Board in September 2003.

The Waste Board has conducted workshops to receive input from stakeholders on the development of these regulations. With the exception of several strongly recommended changes from the industry, the Waste Board has modified the regulations in response to the stakeholders' input. The modifications include changes to compaction, inspections, requirement for scales and maintaining records, conducting public hearings, and a "three strikes rule" which would require facilities to apply for a full Solid Waste Facility Permit if found in violation three times within a two-year period.

The waste industry has been strongly recommending that operations under the EA Notification tier not be referred to as "disposal," out of concern that this may lead to the imposition of local disposal fees. As currently written, the Phase II regulations would not impose the \$1.40 per ton fee from the State under this tier.

- **Solid Waste Management Fee Ordinance**

An Ordinance amending the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Fee was adopted by the Board on April 22, 2003, and became effective on May 22, 2003, with an implementation date of June 1, 2003. Its purpose was to clarify the language of the Fee Ordinance with regard to the application of the Fee to haulers located or operating within the County that collect solid waste for transportation to disposal sites or transformation facilities located outside the County of Los Angeles. The Fee was and continues to be assessed on operators of in-County landfills and transformation facilities on each ton of waste disposed and on transfer stations which export waste out of the County for disposal. The Cities of Pomona and Claremont have expressed concerns about the process used for notifying the waste haulers, and Public Works is working with the Cities for a smooth implementation.

The Fee funds State-mandated Countywide solid waste planning activities, including the Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Management

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Program and the activities of the Task Force. Since the time when the Fee was established, the solid waste management system has changed. There are fewer in-County disposal sites and the amounts of solid waste moving across jurisdictional boundaries have increased. A recent development that had the potential to significantly impact the County's Fee revenues is the direct hauling of solid waste from within the County to an out-of-County disposal site--this was not anticipated during development of the previous Fee structure more than a decade ago. This direct hauling is anticipated to increase significantly in coming years as in-County disposal capacity is exhausted. These developments necessitated an amendment to the Fee structure to ensure its continued adequacy in funding State-mandated Countywide programs.

The amendment also revised the penalty structure to lessen the burden on facilities and others who fail to make Fee payments in a timely manner and removed the provision allowing for payment of the Fee based on gross receipts making payment based on tonnage the preferred basis of payment. Public Works is working with facility operators that previously paid by gross receipts to ensure a smooth transition as the new payment methodology is implemented.

- **Proposed County Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance**

The proposed C&D Recycling Ordinance is intended to significantly increase the diversion of construction and demolition debris generated in the County unincorporated areas by requiring permit applicants to divert 50 percent of their debris. The Ordinance would apply to projects that involve demolition or construction-related activities with an exemption for single-family homes and duplexes. This Ordinance is required as a part of the State-approved Time Extension for the County unincorporated areas to meet the State's waste reduction mandates.

Two meetings were conducted to obtain stakeholder input and discuss recommended changes requested by the building industry. The resulting revised draft Ordinance has been sent to County Counsel for their review and approval. It is anticipated that the Ordinance will be submitted to the Board for final approval within the coming months.

An outreach program for stakeholders will also be conducted along with the implementation of the new Ordinance. This program will involve disseminating outreach materials to the building industry on the benefits of

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recycling construction and demolition debris and helping future permit applicants comply with the new requirements.

- **Legislative Coordination Efforts – Task Force**

The Task Force continues to monitor the Waste Board and the State Legislature and has taken a position on two legislative bills that would impact local governments.

- **SB 537 (Romero) Oppose May 1, 2003, Version**

Currently, the County Sanitation Districts Los Angeles County is developing a materials recycling facility in an unincorporated area of the County of Los Angeles that is permitted to receive an average of up to 4,000 tons of solid waste per day. This facility is an essential component of the region's future waste-by-rail system. This Bill would require the Sanitation Districts to seek prior approval of all cities located within a mile of the subject facility if it exceeds 4,200 tons per day. Consequently, this Bill would usurp the County's land use authority and deny a project to move forward even though it complies with the California Environmental Quality Act.

- **SB 20 (Sher and Romero) Support June 2, 2003, Version**

This Bill would aid local governments in establishing programs that would recover, reuse, and recycle hazardous electronic scrap (commonly known as e-waste) and provides the necessary infrastructure for the State to grapple with this new problem. Supplemental funding from the Bill would further strengthen the County's Countywide Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic Waste Collection Program. The collection of e-waste currently remains unfunded by the State.

## **PROPOSED NEW LANDFILLS-COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

- **Proposed Elsmere Canyon Landfill**

Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc., currently owns property in an area known as Elsmere Canyon, which is located in the unincorporated area of the County of Los Angeles on the southeastern border of the City of Santa Clarita. BFI is in the process of finalizing an agreement, subject to the resolution of third-party claims, to donate approximately 400 acres of its Elsmere Canyon property to the County of Los Angeles for use as open space. This site is identified as a future landfill site in the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element, which addresses the solid waste disposal needs of the

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County unincorporated communities and the 88 cities in the County of Los Angeles and was approved by a majority of the cities in the County containing a majority of the cities' population.

**DISPOSAL FACILITY EXPANSIONS/CLOSURES-COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

- **Puente Hills Landfill**

The Puente Hills Landfill is owned and operated by the Sanitation Districts. The current Conditional Use Permit will expire on October 31, 2003. On December 18, 2002, the County Regional Planning Commission approved a CUP for the continued operation of the Landfill for an additional ten-year period beyond the expiration of the existing CUP.

The Sanitation Districts submitted a report on January 14, 2003, requesting the Task Force to grant a Finding of Conformance for the continued operation of the Landfill. This Finding was granted by the Task Force on February 20, 2003.

The Sanitation Districts filed an application for a revised Solid Waste Facilities Permit No. 19-AA-0053 with the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services on May 22, 2003. The new Solid Waste Facility Permit was issued on July 11, 2003.

The Sanitation Districts, in consultation with Public Works, is currently developing a plan for implementing the conditions of the CUP.

- **Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center**

Pursuant to the facility's CUP, Waste Management, Inc., the facility operator, is required to enter into a written agreement (a Waste Plan Conformance Agreement) with the County prior to expanding the Landfill. Public Works and the operator have been working to develop mutually acceptable language for the Waste Plan Conformance Agreement. Public Works is expecting a new proposal from the operator.

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- **Sunshine Canyon Landfill**

BFI filed a request with the Task Force for a FOC with the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element for the portion of the landfill that lies in the City of Los Angeles. The Task Force granted the FOC on April 17, 2003.

BFI also filed an application for a SWFP with the City's Local Enforcement Agency to begin operation of the City's portion of the landfill. On January 15, 2003, the City's LEA determined the application complete and forwarded it to the Waste Board. The Waste Board issued a new SWFP on May 13, 2003.

Currently, BFI is waiting for the Regional Water Quality Control Board to issue a new Waste Discharge Requirements Permit for the City portion of the Landfill. A hearing on this matter was scheduled for July 24, 2003. At the hearing, Water Board members raised numerous issues regarding the operation of the Landfill and requested additional information. The next hearing date is tentatively scheduled for September 11, 2003.

The Department of Regional Planning, in conjunction with County Parks and Recreation, the Department of Health Services, County Counsel, and Public Works, is drafting the new CUP for the combined City/County Landfill portions of Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Regional Planning has not set a date for public hearings due to several issues that still need to be addressed by BFI.

BFI has provided the traffic study required by Public Works. This study has been forwarded to the City of Los Angeles and Caltrans. BFI still needs to obtain concurrence letters from the City and Caltrans for the proposed mitigation measure for the intersections impacted by the landfill expansion. When Public Works' Traffic and Lighting Division receives the final recommendations from the City and Caltrans, it will prepare its recommendations and findings for Regional Planning's consideration.

The Environmental Programs Division of Public Works has reviewed letters from the Water Board, dated March 27 and April 11, 2003, regarding potential groundwater contamination in the County portion of the Landfill. Based on all the available information on this issue, there is no indication that the presence of landfill gas in the subdrain water has impacted the groundwater. Staff also have visited the site and observed the mitigation measures implemented by BFI. Therefore, staff have concluded that the existing and proposed mitigation measures, which include the installation of additional gas collection wells, a detailed evaluation, and if necessary, a correction program required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board,

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appear adequate to ensure the protection of surface and groundwater quality.

- **Bradley Landfill**

Waste Management, Inc., the owner/operator of Bradley Landfill, filed an application for a revised SWFP with the City of Los Angeles' LEA. The revision would result in a ten-foot increase in the Landfill's elevation with an increased capacity of approximately nine million cubic yards. The position of the City's LEA and Waste Management, Inc., is that the ten-foot increase is not an actual increase, but rather addresses a clerical error in the previous CUP. Therefore, the City maintains this change does not require a new FOC with the Countywide Siting Element. The City's position is contrary to the requirements of the Siting Element. Public Works advised Waste Management, Inc., the City's LEA, and the Waste Board, of this on January 14, 2003.

On April 9, 2003, the Waste Board concurred with the issuance of a revised SWFP for the proposed expansion. However, the expansion is inconsistent with the FOC granted by the Task Force on May 16, 1996.

In response to the concerns regarding the increase in the elevation of the Landfill and revisions to the facility's SWFP, on May 5, 2003, Waste Management, Inc., submitted a request to the Task Force to grant an FOC for the expansion of the Bradley Landfill. During its meeting of June 19, 2003, the Task Force reviewed this request. A number of issues, such as proximity of residential structures to the Landfill, City of Los Angeles' regulations for safety of its occupants, and an accurate analysis of the Landfill's capacity, among other things, were raised by Task Force members, as well as the representatives of the community surrounding the Bradley Landfill. In response to these issues, the Task Force requested Waste Management, Inc., as well as various City of Los Angeles agencies, i.e., LEA, Fire Department, Building & Safety Department, listing these issues and requesting further information and documents to be provided for review by the Task Force.

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**PROPOSED MATERIALS RECOVERY AND COMPOSTING FACILITIES-  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

- **Puente Hills Landfill Material Recovery Facility**

The Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility, currently under construction, is a fully permitted MRF located on approximately 25 acres of the northwest portion of the Puente Hills Landfill site. The first phase of construction began in December 2001. The Sanitation Districts has awarded a \$35 million contract for its construction. The facility is anticipated to be fully operational around summer 2004 and will target commercial waste loads.

The MRF is permitted to accept up to 4,400 tons per day of municipal solid waste and a maximum of 24,000 tons per week (4,000 tons per day, six-day average). Residual waste from the MRF can be transported off site by rail or truck and may also be disposed at the Landfill. Residuals disposed at the landfill will count against the maximum daily tonnage limit of the landfill.

- **Athens Materials Recovery Facility**

Athens Services, owner/operator of the Athens MRF, is seeking approval from the Department of Regional Planning to further expand the commingled collection of its MRF program into the Hacienda Heights/Rowland Heights unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles. This expansion is targeted to increase the overall diversion of the waste stream from these areas.

On August 22, 2002, the Department of Regional Planning in response to claims to the Findings of Non-Conformance with Terms and Conditions of CUP No. 94-084(1), rejected Athens' request for installation of a third conveyor line. Regional Planning concluded that Athens' request was not consistent with the terms of its approved CUP, and that existing equipment was adequate to handle the work load. Additionally, Regional Planning rejected Athens' claim that it can receive trash seven days per week. Regional Planning has since requested the assistance of the LEA in ensuring immediate compliance with all existing conditions of CUP.

On June 11, 2003, Public Works' Traffic & Lighting Division approved a revised traffic study with mitigation measures for the proposed project. Athens was also required to provide certain improvements to the surrounding streets and intersections as a part of the conditions of approval of its CUP prior to issuance of any building permits.

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The revised CUP application is currently undergoing review by Regional Planning. No date has yet been set for the public hearings.

**WASTE-BY-RAIL PROJECTS: MESQUITE REGIONAL AND EAGLE MOUNTAIN LANDFILLS**

The Sanitation Districts entered into Purchase and Sale Agreements in August 2000 on the only two fully-permitted rail haul landfills in California: the Mesquite Regional Landfill in Imperial County and the Eagle Mountain Landfill in Riverside County. The Sanitation Districts closed escrow on the Mesquite Regional Landfill in December 2002. Due in part to pending Federal litigation, the Sanitation Districts has not closed escrow on the purchase of the Eagle Mountain Landfill.

The Mesquite Regional Landfill will be a cornerstone in the waste-by-rail infrastructure needed to handle the waste disposal needs of Los Angeles County well into the future after closure of the Puente Hills Landfill. The Mesquite Regional Landfill will ultimately be able to handle up to 20,000 tons per day of municipal solid waste for approximately 100 years. The solid waste will be transported approximately 210 miles to the site via the Union Pacific Railroad main line, which extends from metropolitan Los Angeles to Glamis and then by a proposed 4.5-mile rail spur built to the site.

Closing escrow on the Mesquite Regional Landfill has allowed the initial waste-by-rail system development plans to move forward. The Sanitation Districts is retaining a consultant to prepare a comprehensive master plan for the development of the site including the Landfill and rail infrastructure. Work on the master plan is scheduled to begin in summer 2003 and finish by summer 2004. Following completion of the master plan, the Sanitation Districts intends to pursue concurrent final design and construction of the facilities necessary to begin operation. The Mesquite Regional Landfill is scheduled to open for rail shipments of waste in 2009, consistent with the timetable in the new CUP issued by the Planning Commission for the Puente Hills Landfill.

**OUT-OF-COUNTY LANDFILLS**

- **El Sobrante Landfill Expansion-County of Riverside**

El Sobrante Landfill is owned and operated by Waste Management (previously called USA Waste Services). The Landfill receives approximately 3,500 tpd of solid waste from LA County, an increase from 2,200 tpd reported in December 2002.

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- **Orange County Landfills**

Orange County landfills have a combined permitted capacity of 20,500 tpd, six days/week. Approximately 13,000 tpd of the capacity is currently being used by Orange County jurisdictions, and the remaining 7,000 tpd is available for out-of-Orange-County waste. During the third and fourth quarter of 2002, an average of 3,346 tpd, six days/week and 3,372 tpd, six days/week of waste were imported respectively from Los Angeles County.

**PUBLIC/YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS  
AND COUNTYWIDE/REGIONAL WASTE DIVERSION**

- **Environmental Defenders Program**

The Environmental Defenders Program, Public Works' environmental education effort for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, continues to reach out to students and parents in the County delivering important reduce, reuse, and recycle messages. The main component of the program consists of assemblies conducted at elementary schools throughout the County with actors portraying the Environmental Defenders characters teaching students about the Three R's. Over the last six months, assemblies have been conducted at 195 elementary schools, reaching approximately 105,000 students. Other outreach efforts within the program include production of promotional items, attendance at community and youth events, and media promotions.

- **Generation Earth**

The Generation Earth Program provides curriculum for middle and high school students and the opportunity to complete hands-on activities to enhance their knowledge about source reduction, recycling, illegal dumping, household hazardous waste, and stormwater/urban runoff issues.

The Contractor, TreePeople, conducted four professional development and waste reduction workshops to introduce teachers to Generation Earth materials and provide extensive training in environmental service learning. More than 40,000 teens logged on to the website and 10,000 of them took the [www.kiisfm.com](http://www.kiisfm.com) "Generation Earth Web Quiz," which increases environmental awareness. Six teens correctly answered all the Generation Earth environmental trivia questions to win prizes.

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A total of 42 schools participated in the annual Battle of the Schools Competition. The first place team was El Rodeo School, Beverly Hills, which diverted more than 15 pounds of trash per student. The second place team was John Muir Middle School, Burbank, with an average diversion rate of 12 pounds per student. The third place team was North Hollywood High School, Los Angeles, with an average diversion rate of 11 pounds per student. The total amount of waste diverted for all schools was 187,000 pounds. The top three schools located within the Los Angeles Unified School District were awarded cash prizes from the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation totaling \$2,500.

- **Plan-It Earth Program**

Plan-It Earth is a newspaper-based learning program for sixth through ninth grade students that is co-sponsored by Public Works and the Los Angeles Times. The Program features an eight-week subscription to the Los Angeles Times, paid for by Public Works, to increase student knowledge about the environment through reading the newspaper, completing classroom exercises and participating in an environmental essay contest. More than 1,000 teachers and 70,000 students participated in the program during 2002. Approximately 200 students submitted essays. KNBC Weatherman Fritz Coleman was the emcee at this year's awards ceremony at the Los Angeles Times Headquarters on May 20, 2003. More than 80 students, teachers, and parents attended the ceremony. All finalists received Times in Education duffel bags, Plan-It Earth t-shirts and certificates of participation. The award-winning students and teachers received American Express Gift Cheques ranging from \$50-\$100 (total of \$2,300).

- **Countywide Smart Gardening Program**

The Smart Gardening Program is currently in its one-year contract extension period with Environmental Science Associates. Due to seasonal changes, no workshops were scheduled during the winter months of January and February. A full spring schedule of workshops started in March 2003. During the reporting period, ESA conducted over 40 Smart Gardening workshops throughout the County at the 12 permanent demonstration centers, cities, schools, and community organizations where over 950 residents attended these workshops. To further enhance awareness and promote the Program, ESA also attended over 15 regional events, including Earth Jam III in Los Angeles, the Long Beach Home Show, the California Poppy Festival in Lancaster, and the Antelope Valley Pride Week in Antelope Valley. In addition to offering subsidized compost bins and worm bins for sale at designated Smart Gardening workshops, residents are

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entered into a free raffle to win a compost bin as an additional incentive for residents to attend workshops.

- **Los Angeles County Recycling Market Development Zone (LACRMDZ)**

The LACRMDZ is one of 40 zones that are part of the State's program to expand markets for recycled material generated within the State. The LACRMDZ is administered by the County of Los Angeles Community Development Commission with support and cooperation provided by Public Works.

The CDC is currently involved in the zone renewal process for the LACRMDZ. The renewal process will take approximately one year to complete, with participation from the County and all eleven participating cities necessary to obtain an additional ten-year term. Updated Market Development Plans and CEQA documents, as well as new City Council resolutions approving the renewal of the zone, are required from all jurisdictions.

The zone mailing list that was created last year for marketing purposes was found to have numerous errors and a consultant was hired by the CDC to create another list. A mass mailing to manufacturing businesses in the LACRMDZ is anticipated in early 2004.

- **Telephone Book Recycling Program**

Now that curbside recycling is available in most County unincorporated areas, except for remote areas in the Antelope Valley, staff is reviewing the Telephone Book Recycling Program to determine if it is cost effective to continue the Program.

- **Environmental Hotline (1-888-CLEAN-LA)**

Public Works' Environmental Hotline was established to provide a convenient means for the County's residents to obtain information on proper disposal of household hazardous waste, used oil recycling, stormwater pollution prevention, illegal dumping, recycling, composting, and other environmental issues. The customized hotline system allows staff to track the number of calls received daily which is effective in evaluating outreach methods. The Hotline received approximately 36,700 calls during this reporting period.

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- **Environmental Resources Website ([www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com))**

The County's Environmental Resources Website, at [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com), provides residents and businesses with valuable information about the County's waste reduction and recycling programs including Household Hazardous Waste, Smart Gardening, Residential Recycling, Youth Education, Tire Recycling, and Business Recycling Programs. The website also provides useful environmental-related information such as where to recycle phone books, how to reduce junk mail, and seasonal information such as Bay Days events. Residents wishing to contact us are provided with an e-mail address, mailing address, hours of operation, and even a map to our headquarters building on every webpage in order to provide seamless delivery service. The website is an efficient, low-cost way to provide information and services to residents and businesses free of charge, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Responses to e-mail inquiries from the public through the website are also provided on a timely basis, usually within one working day. Pages on the website were viewed over 650,000 times in over 180,000 visits by nearly 100,000 residents, officials, and representatives of governments and organizations between February 2003 and July 2003.

**COUNTY UNINCORPORATED AREA WASTE DIVERSION  
AND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

- **Residential Recycling Program**

The Residential Recycling Program has launched its public outreach with the placement of its 60-second cable TV advertisement, 60-second radio advertisement, and direct-mail flyer and magnet targeting the County's unincorporated areas. The TV and radio advertisements ran for four weeks and were also provided in Spanish. The outreach uses the "Get Carried Away" theme to encourage residents to make their best efforts in recycling.

The Program has also conducted outreach at community events and provides technical assistance for multi-family complexes. The community events included the Antelope Valley Flea Market, California Poppy Festival, Children's Earth Day, Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair, and the Juneteenth Festival. The technical assistance helps to start recycling programs at multi-family complexes by encouraging the program, providing outreach materials for the tenants, coordinating with haulers, and helping the complexes start the program.

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- **Business Recycling Program**

Public Works received four proposals in response to its Request for Proposals for a 36-month contract to continue the unincorporated area Business Recycling Program. The County evaluated the proposals and recommended the contract be awarded to Edelman Public Relations, the previous contractor for the program. On May 20, 2003, the Board approved the award and authorized the Director of Public Works to execute the contract. Subsequently, Edelman Public Relations signed the agreement, County Counsel gave its approval, and the Director executed the contract on July 2, 2003. The contract amount is \$1,304,082 and the scope of work consists primarily of visiting and assisting businesses in developing on-site recycling programs, printing and distributing brochures and promotional postcards, maintaining an existing database of business contacts and waste information, and conducting telephone surveys to measure program effectiveness.

- **Business License Review Program**

This Program was implemented following the Board's authorization of Public Works' Environmental Programs Division to verify the legal disposal of waste by certain categories of businesses that are required to possess a business license. The Treasurer and Tax Collector began sending business license applications for new businesses to this Division for its approval in December 1999. Since that time, the Division has received approximately 471 new applications, and 40 were received during this reporting period.

## **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND SPECIAL WASTE PROGRAMS**

- **Countywide Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic Waste Collection Program**

During the reporting period, a media plan was in place providing newspaper advertising, community announcements, and correspondence to County of Los Angeles and city officials to promote the 27 Household Hazardous Waste Roundups held in the Cities or unincorporated communities of: Claremont, Santa Fe Springs, Gardena, Glendale, Marina del Rey, Diamond Bar, Long Beach, Pico Rivera, Avalon, Azusa, Lake Los Angeles, Lancaster, Santa Clarita, San Dimas, West Covina, Rancho Palos Verdes, Pomona, Unincorporated South Whittier, Unincorporated West Whittier, Pasadena, Torrance, Culver City, Industry, La Habra Heights, Downey, and Hawthorne. Also as part of this program, the City of Los Angeles conducted Hazmobile collection events in the communities of Hollywood, Sun Valley, Crenshaw

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District, Northridge, Van Nuys, Woodland Hills, and Sylmar, and South Central. In addition, during the first half of 2003, the City of Los Angeles opened four permanent collection centers in the communities of Boyle Heights, San Pedro, Playa Del Rey, and Sun Valley. All County residents have the option of taking their discarded HHW and electronic waste to these centers.

On October 5, 2002, the County Household Hazardous Waste Program was expanded to include collection of electronic waste. From a total of 33,571 car loads, 335,913 gallons of HHW and 648,811 pounds of electronic waste were collected at County events from February 1, 2003, through July 30, 2003.

In addition, out of 4,388 car loads, 40,014 gallons of HHW and 134,297 pounds of electronic waste were collected at City of Los Angeles events from February 1, 2003, through April 30, 2003.

The Waste Board recently approved a grant to the Cities of Palmdale and Lancaster to develop a permanent HHW facility in the Antelope Valley. In the interest of enhancing the level of service to all Antelope Valley residents, Public Works, in coordination with Supervisor Antonovich's office, is meeting with these Cities and Waste Management of Antelope Valley on a monthly basis to assist the Cities in developing this facility at the Antelope Valley Landfill.

- **Household Hazardous Waste Public Education Program**

The County continues to implement the Household Hazardous Waste Public Education Program to inform residents of the proper management of HHW products. This public education program addresses the reuse of HHW products, the use of alternative products, and proper disposal of HHW. Public education about HHW issues was provided to residents at community events; presentations to businesses and community groups; and by working with local retailers and churches in the vicinity of the collection events to promote the program and provide information.

- **Integrated Waste Tire Recycling Program**

The County's contractor, Meyer Watkins Associates, conducted three waste tire collection events within this reporting period. The Contractor conducted an event in Whittier on February 22, 2003, that collected 452 tires, and an event in Compton on June 21 that collected 672 tires. The County and the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale formed a partnership to conduct a waste

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tire collection event at five locations in the Antelope Valley on April 12. The event, which was partially funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Waste Board, was also assisted by the Contractor. The event was a tremendous success, collecting 18,221 passenger tire equivalents combined, an increase of about 70 percent from the previous year's event collection.

For reasons unrelated to the contract, Meyer Watkins Associates has asked the County to terminate the contract. Public Works is currently working on the termination procedures with the Contractor, while staff is preparing a new request for proposals which will be rebid by the end of the year.

- **Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Week**

In an effort to raise environmental awareness, the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force, Public Works, Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, Waste Management, Inc., and local town councils in the Antelope Valley, conducted the third annual Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Week event between April 12 and 19, 2003. The event featured activities and cleanup projects that raised environmental awareness, instilled good stewardship of our natural environment and encouraged community pride in the Antelope Valley. These activities included waste tire collection events, household hazardous waste collection events, electronic waste collection events, cleanup projects, free trash disposal at a local landfill, and a smart gardening workshop. As a result, more than 2,200 tons of trash, 18,000 tires, 36 tons of electronic goods, and 21,000 gallons of HHW were collected.

- **Rubberized Asphalt Concrete Technology Center**

The Center is a cooperative effort between the Counties of Los Angeles and Sacramento and the Waste Board to reduce waste tire disposal by promoting the use of crumb rubber from scrap tires in roadway rehabilitation projects. As part of the Center's outreach effort, grant programs are offered to reimburse public agencies within California up to \$12,500 per project for inspection of rubberized asphalt concrete construction. The Center provides education, training, and technical consultation to local agencies on the technology and use of rubberized asphalt concrete. In March 2003, the Center conducted two workshops for Public Works staff which were attended by 87 engineers, construction inspectors, and maintenance workers. In May 2003, the Center gave a presentation at the Solid Waste Association of North America conference in Palm Springs to 30 attendees including solid waste officials and industry representatives. In July 2003, the Center conducted a workshop for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority which

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was attended by 20 engineers and consultants. The Center provides a website at [www.RubberizedAsphalt.org](http://www.RubberizedAsphalt.org).

- **Used Motor Oil Recycling Program**

The Used Motor Oil Public Education Contract with Pulsar Advertising, Inc., was approved by the Board on March 4, 2003. The Contractor submitted a marketing plan for public education about recycling used oil and filters. The primary outreach will consist of a radio campaign in English, Spanish and Chinese. For the first time, outreach will be made to the Asian community funded by a \$341,131 State grant awarded by the Waste Board to reach this target audience. Additional emphasis will be placed on community collection events, more visible presence at retail outlet stores, and additional education about used oil filter recycling.

Nine collection events are currently being scheduled with three events focusing on Asian communities. The events will be evaluated for effectiveness based on oil/filters collected, surveys of residents attending, and feedback from retail managers hosting the events at their stores. The first event took place on July 26, 2003, in the City of Rosemead. Approximately 340 residents participated in the event. A total of 850 gallons of used motor oil and 180 oil filters were collected.

Public Works staff conducted site visits of State-certified oil recycling centers along with staff from the Waste Board in June 2003. These are centers in the County unincorporated areas and in the cities that are contributing grant funds to our used oil program. HHW schedules and magnets were given to the managers as well as point of purchase displays for their parts counters and checkout areas encouraging customers to recycle their oil.

In May 2003, a Used Oil Block Grant Application was submitted to the State to continue outreach and public education about used motor oil and oil filter recycling. Eleven cities partnered with us on this application, contributing all or part of their grant funds to our campaign.

- **Recycled Paper Purchasing Program**

County departments continue to purchase 30 percent post-consumer recycled content paper from the County's cooperative program which began on March 6, 2000. The program enables governmental entities to join the County in purchasing recycled bond paper. Through March 2003, 23 cities are participating in the program and have purchased more than 560,000 cases of paper with a cost savings of approximately \$430,000.

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**OTHER SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT/RECYCLING ISSUES**

- **Knowaste's Disposable Diaper Recycling Technology**

Per the Board's direction on July 18, 2000, Public Works monitors Knowaste technology for recycling disposable diapers. Knowaste and the City of Santa Clarita have completed their six-month Diaper Recycling Pilot Program. The pilot program collected 29.5 tons of disposable diapers separated at curbside from over 200 families at no added waste disposal cost to the City and recycled 3,950 pounds of fiber made from the diapers. The City is electing not to recycle the plastic component of the diapers at this time. The City has decided to extend the program for an additional three months and then determine if the program should be expanded to require residents to pay an extra charge for the service.

- **Website Promotional Campaign Contract**

As previously reported, this Contract ended in April 2002. Although LA Internet did not carry out all the terms of the Contract, the Contract was successful in increasing the public's awareness of the County's Environmental Resources website ([www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com)) and Online Materials Exchange website ([www.LACoMAX.com](http://www.LACoMAX.com)). Nearly all of the contracted items were delivered before the Contract terminated and overall the Contract was a success. However, LA Internet did not make \$22,700 in payments to vendors that provided services under the Contract, and \$2,400 was paid by Public Works for services that ultimately were not delivered. Public Works sent LA Internet certified letters requesting resolution of these debts but has not received a response. With County Counsel's assistance, Public Works appeared before the Contractor Hearing Board. The Hearing Board voted to support Public Works' request to debar the company and its principal owners from doing business with the County for three years, the maximum period allowed by the County's debarment ordinance. The date for the Hearing Board's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to debar has not been set.

RB:ma

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